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ments and to France in 1871 some sixty-two, seems somehow disproportionate. Moreover it is difficult to see why the documents relating to the Mutiny of the Nore were included, when, for instance, the constitution of the Confederate States is omitted, though the inclusion of a considerable amount of material from various champions of the cause of Ireland during the past century or more will be, to some minds, quite understandable.

All "source-books" are, of necessity, unsatisfactory to all except their makers, and it is not fair, perhaps, to inject one's personal opinion regarding the material they should include or exclude; and yet such judgment is equally inevitable. There is much in these pages for which we are grateful. But there are two criticisms which it seems are sound. The first is that of over-emphasis of the social element in the revolutionary movements of the nineteenth century. The second is against the bibliographies. These are often absurdly inadequate, as witness, in particular, that on the French Revolution. It seems to argue a certain unfamiliarity of the author with the literature of the subject of his book, beyond the field of his own special interest, and even there it is not always adequate. The histories of Chartism which have appeared so abundantly in recent years would certainly have afforded much material; and the now almost forgotten histories of the secret societies which once illuminated the darker ways of nineteenth-century politics would not have been out of place, however disillusionizing they may be. The history of revolution remains to be written—in another generation or two—but meanwhile we should not confine our energies wholly to social movements. Political movements were once of importance; perhaps they still are.

W. C. ABBOTT.

The Economic History of Ireland from the Union to the Famine.

By GEORGE O'BRIEN, Litt.D., M.R.I.A. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1921. Pp. xii, 624. £1 1s.)

THIS book is a piece of historical study under the form of a process of reasoning. It proves its point with a conclusiveness that at first invites suspicion: the demonstration fits the dogma with the exact inevitableness of scholastic forethought. Closer acquaintance, however, brings confidence in a bit of scholarship admirably done, though without quite dispelling a sense of strangeness at finding a chapter of nineteenth-century history conceived in the spirit of a schoolman's disquisition.

A treatise on Ireland going behind the issue of race and of church, and devoting attention solely to the ponderable and calculable well-being of the people, bespeaks self-restraint that is itself an achievement. Disaffection toward the Union came, so it is here argued, when increasing national impoverishment belied the betterment expected through political integration. In England the theoretical and official explanation of this

impoverishment was over-population. On the correctness of that assumption the argumentative justification of the Union—*i.e.*, the English—government's policy stands or falls. With exhaustive completeness the author shows the assumption to have been false. Between 1800 and 1850 Ireland, he finds, in relation to its actual and possible agricultural resources, was not over-populated. The array of official and unofficial evidence brought to bear upon the point is overwhelming, and, in its effect, final. No writer need advert hereafter to Ireland's population during these five decades without taking into account the refutation of the orthodox view that Dr. O'Brien here sets forth (part I., Agricultural Resources).

In part II. and part III., industry and public finance are discussed, but with deductions which are not unfamiliar. The student of the period will welcome, nevertheless, the skill with which Dr. O'Brien explains the interconnection of agricultural resources with industry, and of both with banking credit; of population with land laws, of ejectment acts with the franchise; in short, the interconnection of all economic phenomena. The unity of Ireland's economic history thus obtained makes this a desirable book of reference.

In the course of his arguments on over-population Dr. O'Brien prefers a charge which, in the judgment of the reviewer, casts an untoward reflection where it is not deserved, and which rests upon no substantiation beyond the author's *ipse dixit*. The sacrifice of souls which the orthodox view of over-population involved was ghastly enough; but Dr. O'Brien lays the direct responsibility for the tragedy upon the English government. It is at least debatable whether or not responsibility can be concentrated in such a melodramatic way. Contemporary statesmen who could do little more than follow public opinion, were expected to accept enlightenment from prevailing schools of economic thought. Were they therefore accountable for these schools? Was Liverpool or Melbourne or Peel or Russell personally responsible for the doctrine of *laissez-faire*, or for the public opinion that expected the classical economy to prove as advantageous to Ireland as to Great Britain? Surely a more catholic view would not carry the ethics of official responsibility to such length!

C. E. FRYER.

The Economic Development of France and Germany, 1815-1914.

By J. H. CLAPHAM, Litt.D., Fellow of King's College. (Cambridge: University Press. 1921. Pp. xi, 420. 18s.)

IN this book the author presents the substance of lectures which he has for some years given at Cambridge. He has, in the first part of the book, used some of the material in the chapter contributed by him to volume X. of the *Cambridge Modern History*, but has added a second and larger part, covering the period 1848-1914, which is entirely new. In each part he has followed the plan of treating separately the agrarian and the in-